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Letter dated 9 May 1994 from the Acting Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Government of Canada welcomes the initiative you have taken in consultation with the Secretary-General to conduct a mission to Rwanda and Burundi.

Canada also believes that your expressed hope of reporting on your return to Geneva to a special session of the Commission on Human Rights is natural and commendable. I am therefore pleased to confirm that the Honourable André Ouellet, Minister of Foreign Affairs, has directed Canadian officials to call formally on the Commission to hold such a session. We hereby request that your officials take the necessary steps to secure agreement of the states members of the Commission to his proposal.

Principal responsibility for United Nations action in Rwanda of course remains with the Security Council, and Canada has indicated its support for an expanded effort by the Council. Canada supports your initiative because we believe effective action to prevent further human rights violations must be a central element of the overall United Nations response to the tragedy in Rwanda. Your mission and the deliberations of the Commission should help ensure this is achieved.

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Canada is committed to working to this end with you and all members of the Commission on Human Rights, especially members of the African Group. We have begun to consult with concerned parties and look forward to hearing your observations on your mission. Canadian representatives are at your disposal to provide any possible assistance to you as you pursue this most important challenge.

(Signed): Paul Dubois
Acting Permanent
Representative